

# THE BELL RINGER



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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER 8, 1989

## Student Council Gears for Action

by Alden Smith

reporter

The 1989/90 MBA Student Council is planning for a busy and productive year. After the success of the Cloverbottom landscaping last spring, we plan to continue such projects. Numerous ideas for service projects range from recycling in our own lunchroom to sponsoring a Halloween party for kids. There have been talks of a major project for the spring in which money and manpower could be pooled with that of both the Big Red Club and the Service Club. The Soup Kitchen is certainly something this year's Student Council hopes to improve on. In the past, a problem has been raising enough money to

provide quality food for the homeless. A contribution of one dollar from each student at every class meeting does not seem too much to ask. Everyone can afford to sacrifice his Coke at lunch once a month to help feed a hungry person.

For all you social lions who are wondering what the Student Council has to offer you, several weekend events are being planned in conjunction with Harpeth Hall such as cookouts, a possible retreat, and more. Please understand that nothing will come of any of these plans without student body involvement and any new ideas are certainly encouraged.

## M B A SUMMER NEWS

### New Science Labs

The chemistry, biology, and physics labs were totally redone this summer, bringing them up to safety codes, after some of the wiring and plumbing had been untouched in thirty years. Besides to meet regulations, the labs were refurbished to encourage science at MBA with nice, new facilities. Dr. Paschall remarked, "we were sending mixed signals" to students, because science was verbally encouraged, but the facilities denied the student entire freedom: individual projects had to be taken down to allow classes to go on. With cabinets installed all around the labs, students can now just move their projects

into a cabinet during classes instead of disassembling them. Also, new desks that can be repositioned about the room were installed in the biology lab to allow better teaching: the students can assemble around the teacher instead of some being in the back of the room as they were in previous years.

### Two Dozen New Macintosh Computers Purchased

Two dozen Macintosh Plus computers were purchased at the beginning of the summer in an effort to update MBA's computer standing. Macintosh Pluses were chosen for their lower cost relative to comparable IBM systems, for their networking capabilities, and for their accessibility to beginners. The computers replace several Apple II+ and Franklin Ace computers, which will be used in the Junior School and in science labs.

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Patrick Wilson

Montgomery Bell Academy  
Nashville, Tennessee

## The Russian Revolution

COMMENTARY

by Babu Paruchuri

staff writer

Recent occurrences in the Soviet Union and, in particular, the Baltic states, place Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in a perilous position in which he must pacify the nationalistic fervor in the Baltic region while at the same time maintaining authority over them to please the hardliners in the Kremlin. Never in the Soviet Union's history has there been such a loosening of centralized authority, allowing a new sense of autonomy in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Recent worker strikes have threatened the Soviet economy that can ill-afford economic losses at this point in time; however, Gorbachev appeased the workers by allowing pay raises, more consumer goods, and greater political reform. These concessions represent the conciliatory attitude he must now take to quiesce the tides of nationalism that have risen to cause efforts to secede from the Soviet Union. It is ironic that these concessions may, in fact, give rise to demands for

more political and economic reform. Gorbachev recently allowed Lithuania and Estonia to manage their economies independent of the central government and has claimed these actions as attempts to accelerate *perestroika*, with which hardliners are becoming increasingly impatient.

The hardliners have endured Gorbachev's reforms, but the economic situation of the Soviet Union has created a climate that will not facilitate its President's reforms. The budget deficit stands at a staggering \$160 billion and economic growth remains slow. This sluggish economy has led to a reversal of previous Soviet military intervention and economic aid to Soviet satellites. In Nicaragua, one can see severe cutbacks in foreign aid, partly in response to the disintegration of the contras. In Afghanistan, a complete military withdrawal was seen in a country that the Soviet Union has been in for nearly nine years. Finally, Poland and Hungary are beginning to

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## Cheerleading

Last spring, tryouts for cheerleaders were held, and eight girls from Harpeth Hall and St. Cecilia were chosen: captain Marguerite Nielsen, Stacey Newpher, Kirkland Ahern, Kristen Kneeland, Beth Rather, Josie Sevier, Cami Monk, and Mary Donna Wimberly. Nine courageous and energetic gentlemen also volunteered last spring to be cheerleaders: captain Drew Heitzler, Carter McNabb, Lee Page, Kevin Kruse, Chris Wayburn, William Hastings, Brandon Daniell, Will Enkema, and David Haslam.

For three days in early June,

the girls attended a cheerleading camp in Jackson, Tennessee, where they won the award for Most Improved Squad. Both the girls and guys have been practicing since mid-August. This year we plan to have four or five pep rallies, each of which should be entertaining for all. The cheerleaders hope to get as many people as possible excited about and involved in supporting the football team. We'll be looking forward to seeing large crowds - come join in the fun!

## Debate Preview

by Babu Paruchuri

staff writer

If success at summer workshops is any indication, the MBA Debate Team may expect even greater accolades this. With the return of team captain Jonathan Reeve from Greece and the loss of only one Senior from last year, the team is setting its sights on much national competition with the first rest being the National Earlybird Tournament at Wake Forest University.

The team will return this year with vast experience because of the diversity of the workshops attended this past summer, such as Dartmouth, Michigan University, Iowa, Kentucky, Northwestern, Samford, and Georgetown. At the Dartmouth Debate Institute, Jonathan Reeve reached the semifinal round of the institute tournament after posting an impressive 8-0 record in preliminaries. After winning six out of eight preliminary rounds, Eugene Park won his initial elimination round but fell in an octofinal round. At the Northwestern tournament, Hal Jones powered his way in preliminary rounds to the elimination rounds. He then proceeded to outwit his opponents in elimination rounds and eventually found himself the winner of the tournament, first place. At Michigan University among a competitive field, Babu Paruchuri posted a 4-2 record in preliminary rounds in reaching the octofinal round of the tournament. At Georgetown, Willie Gray, as well as Bill Sastry, won three out of four rounds.

Under the leadership of Mr. Tate, the team should do well on the varsity, junior varsity, and novice levels of competition in cross-examination debate. Those interested in joining the team in debate or individual events should drop by the debate office.

## OPINIONS

### Gay Couples' Rights to Adopt

by David Lott

Copy Editor

This summer I was questioned on whether I thought homosexual couples should have the right to adopt children. After some pondering the idea, I made up my mind. **NO!!!** As I am not usually one to discriminate against minorities, this opinion is somewhat difficult to justify. However, I am a very opinionated individual, and I have succeeded in justifying my view to myself. Now I shall try to justify it to you. The main basis for my belief is my anti-homosexuality nature. As I previously stated, I am against discrimination in most cases, but in this case I feel I must because I believe the preferences of a homosexual couple would have adverse affects on the adopted children and thus infringe upon their rights as individuals.

First of all, God did not create Adam and Allen. Rather, He created Adam and Eve. That is to say, single-sex couples were not meant to have children because it is impossible for them to reproduce. I believe that homosexual behavior is unnatural and likewise that it is unnatural and therefore wrong for gay couples to have children.

Let us consider the children, too. First of all,

since homosexuality is widely disapproved of, the children of such couples would suffer extreme ridicule. They would be shunned by and isolated from peers. Such reactions from peers could lead to extremely low self-confidence, increased drug abuse, and suicide. If homosexuality were more socially acceptable, there would not be as much of a problem socially for the children. Furthermore, since it is my belief that environment plays a large part in determining a child's personality, I think children of homosexual couples are more likely to become homosexuals themselves than those of heterosexual couples. Since homosexuality is evil in my mind, this further spread must be prevented.

Making adoption legal for gay couples would probably lead to and increase in the rate of abortion. I know that I would not want to put my child up for adoption if I thought it might be adopted by gays, and I'm sure my feelings are shared by many pregnant mothers who might turn to abortion. I believe the best option for everyone is to prevent adoption by homosexual couples by law.

### Russia...

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enjoy the economic freedoms that many never thought imaginable. Problems with Poland and Hungary pale in comparison to the problems Gorbachev is experiencing at home. Some have said that Gorbachev's allowing of establishment of an autonomous government led by the Solidarity movement is a ploy to allow failure of this movement in management of the economy in order to reestablish an even harder communist rule. I tend to believe this untrue, considering the shape of the reforms Gorbachev has made so far.

It seems President Bush has taken appropriate action in the situations in Eastern Europe in urging on the reforms in Poland and Hungary and in encouraging Gorbachev's *perestroika*. Economic aid to Poland is, nevertheless, needed for this country, the first country in the Communist bloc to try to exist economically independent. Hungary has received some financial aid so far, but it is to be determined whether the aid is enough. The major reason that U.S. support for Gorbachev is important is that it is unlikely the hardliners will be patient with delay and failures in *perestroika*. If Gorbachev were to be replaced by hardliners, the Cold War may heat up once again.

### News...

from page one

#### Trees Removed

Many branches and trees were removed from campus this summer to eliminate dead trees and to prevent some trees from interfering with the growth of others. One tree next to the patio was partially cut, but could not be completely cut down, because it had been filled with concrete years ago to keep it from falling over. The tree between the Ball Building and Carter Hall was cut down

too, because it was almost completely hollow and posed a danger of falling on one of the buildings next to it.

#### Parking Spaces

Students have assigned, numbered parking spaces this year, so that the school can control where people park, to prevent students from parking across two spaces or on grass, and so that the school knows whose car is where, to discourage students' leaving school for lunch and other unsanctioned activities during the day.

-Andrew Duthie

### A (Short) Letter from the Editor

Finishing a newspaper at the end of the summer can be trying when it involves finding students who are interested, and in town when it needs to be done. Hectic as it has been, the first edition of this year's *Bell Ringer* is now in print.

This year's central staff should be efficient, with Business, Photography, and Sports Editors returning from

last year, two skilled writers acting as Entertainment Editors, and a Copy Editor (and Ed-in-Chief) with enough Macintosh experience to finish a quality paper.

I would like to thank Dr. Paschall for his prompt action to our requests that the newspaper room be fixed up for this year's crew, with a new paint job, heat (sometime), and an opening window.

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Business Editors	Matt Fisher
	Kirk Kaludis
Copy Editor	David Lott
Entertainment Editors	Jim Haynes
	David Workman
Photography Editor	Devraj Basu
Sports Editor	Oman Sloan
Advisor	Dr. Neimeyer
Staff: David Daniels, Renard François, Keith Ikard, Babu Paruchuri (Based on their continued efforts on <i>The Bell Ringer</i> and their willingness to held during their last days of summer.)	

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## A Gothic Wonderland

by Jim Haynes  
Entertainment Editor

*The virginal brides file past his tomb  
strewn with time's dead flowers bereaved in deadly bloom  
Alone in the darkened room - the count  
Bela Lugosi's dead!*

In the wake of the punk movement, Peter Murphy wailed "Bela Lugosi's dead!" as Bauhaus became the quintessential gothic band. Soon after heavy basses and dark vocals provided a major underground style in the early eighties.

The pioneers of gothic music, The Cure, Bauhaus, and Joy Division, experimented in ominous lyrics and haunt-

music with Curtis' personal lyrics of agony and Peter Hook's pummeling bass lines, in both albums, *Unknown Pleasures* and *Closer*.

As these bands evolved into what they are today, darker, more subversive bands emerged. The Sisters of Mercy shrouded their music in black. The Sisters' first EP's were pieces of dark music drifting over a black sea.

gothic realm. Vocalist Blixa Bargeld yelps his German lyrics while such instruments as giant springs, jackhammers, broken glass, and even concrete mixers rumble behind primitive guitars. They have made a small change on the latest album, *Feuif Auf Der Nach Ober Offenen Richterskala*, by remaking the Grateful Dead classic "Morning Dew." Nick Cave, after departing from Birthday Party, created the Bad Seeds with Einstürzende Neubauten's Blixa Bargeld and Mick Harvey. Cave wrote morbid blues with a heavy amount of distortion on *Tender Prey*. Soon after, Cave and Bargeld wrote *Ghosts...of the Civil Dead*, a painful album of prison life through the words of former prison guard David Hale and their bizarre music of chainsaws, cellos, and flutes.

The future of gothic music is not clear. Robert Smith has claimed for the third time in four years that The Cure will



Robert Smith  
of The Cure.  
Illustration by Jim Haynes

ing music. The Cure's gothic music has been a constant change. From the ghost-like minimalism of *Seventeen Seconds* and *Faith* to the aggressive darkness of *Pornography*, Robert Smith has been developing a gothic experiment that has resulted in *Disintegration*, a masterpiece of gloom and darkness. Bauhaus and later Tones on Tail rumbled with heavy basses mixed with swirling guitars and neurotic lyrics. Still, nothing they wrote compared with "Bela Lugosi's Dead" and its vampiric lyrics of death. Joy Division lived all of its lyrics as their end was marked with Ian Curtis' suicide. Still, Joy Division created the simplest, and at times, the best gothic

Melodic guitars and heavy basses blended with Andrew Eldritch's deep vocals created the only true Sisters of Mercy album, *First and Last and Always*. The Swans were not as forgiving as The Sisters of Mercy. Although the deep lyrical vocals of Michael Gira are present, Gira forces the listener into a claustrophobic black box of agony and fear. In *Children of God*, The Swans' music removes even the slightest hint of hope from Gira's poetry with painfully aggressive dirges.

Gothic music is still widely experimental. Diamanda Galas has a huge thirty piece band that twists her lyrics into a hellish journey. Einstürzende Neubauten is the most alien and painful of the

end. However, Smith plans for either instrumental Cure albums or a solo project with Cure bassist Simon Gallup and Cure drummer Boris Williams. When Wayne Hussey and Simon Adams left The Sisters of Mercy, The Sisters of Mercy became an almost dance band; the Mission U.K., Hussey's and Adams' new band, has not been any better than the early Sisters of Mercy albums. Former gothic bands Love and Rockets and New Order have not made any better music than their former gothic bands. However, obscure bands, like Blackbird and the Abecedarians, will continue to pour out dirges.

## Contemporary Christian Rock

by David Lott  
Copy Editor

Everyone enjoys listening to music...I think. If you do, and you like listening to secular music (i.e. music with secular lyrics), then there is the outside chance you are tired of hearing such depressing, sleazy, rotten, yucky, and repulsive lyrics that you are likely to hear among the plethora of secular music.

I know what you're thinking: "Naaaa.... NEVER!" And you may be right.

However, in the unlikely case that you do, I'd like to offer you an alternative.

It's called contemporary Christian music. It is your basic homogeneous mixture of music with Christian lyrics. I'm sure you've heard some of it: Amy Grant, for instance. If her work is not to your taste, don't fret! There is a growing market for other styles of Christian music; and the industry is centered right here in Nashville, so don't wait to check out the merchandise at area music stores. If you crave a greater selection, check out Logos book store across Hillsboro Road from Davis-Kidd in Green Hills.

If you'd like to hear this stuff on radio, you're in luck: 89.1 WNAZ FM, is a non-profit Christian station run by Travecca Nazarene College. During the day, most of the music is like pop music. Late nights feature slower music, Saturday nights have the pleasing though lesser known

styles of music, and Sundays are devoted to traditional Gospel and hymns.

This station does broadcast more than just music. There are daily programs such as Dr. Dobson's Focus on the Family every day at six. This program deals with many controversial issues such as the execution of Ted Bundy, whom Dr. Dobson interviewed just hours prior to the execution. The program does, of course, focus on important family issues that range from divorce to burnout to suicide. The station also airs hourly news broadcasts from the International Media Service and traffic updates during rush hours.

So, if you think you'd like to add a little more variety to your music listening enjoyment, tune in to 89.1 and try out Contemporary Christian music.

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## SPORTS

## Cross Country Goes to Camp

by Keith Ikard  
staff reporter

This years' MBA cross country team, led by captains Dan James and Brandon Barrett, should expect to do very well as autumn progresses. Having a good year does not necessarily mean winning every big meet of the season, but it means that the team will hang tough through the losses of the season with two goals in mind: winning the region for the 10th time in a row and a high finish at the State Cross Country Meet held at the Steeplechase on November 4. If any team does well in the state this year it will be the Big Red. These runners share a unity unlike any team in the past couple of years, and to be successful, any squad in any sport needs this team unity.

The annual cross country camp was fittingly held this year at Montgomery Bell

State Park starting Monday, August 21. It was a rigorous week of running twice a day, Ralphs, paddleboating, and water volleyball. Guest speakers this year were Rob Swindell (track coach) and Mr. Drake (cross country historian). The first cross-country meet (the rapid Robert Pruitt Invitational) will be held on Thursday, September 8 against teams such as Hillsboro and Brentwood Academy. These teams, along with MBA, should prove to be the best in the state at the end of the year, and it is important that MBA knows it can beat Hillsboro, because Hillsboro has threatened to end the streak of MBA cross-country victories. It will be a tough year for MBA cross-country, and there will be stiff competition among fan club members, so attend as many meets as possible.

by Renard François  
staff reporter

On the seventh day of August, 53 members piled into the AV Room ready to kick off the 91st edition of MBA football. The team will be a very experienced team although the team lacks Sheldon Griffin, Worcester Bryan, Brooks Smith, Drew Robison and Jeremy Russell.

The offense of the Big Red will be a threat to the opponents with the return of Junior running back Robert Echols. DeThompson will be controlling the offense. The Big Red will also be a threat in the air with such targets a Captain Alden Smith, co-captain George Clements, and Richard Arendale. The line opening holes and giving protection to the backs is anchored by co-captain David Trainer, Linsey Cooper, and Adin Lara. This year the Big Red is sure to be

a scoring threat.

Despite the loss of three All-District players, the defense will still be tough to score on. The Defensive line will be led by nose guard David Trainer, Clayton Dike, Matt Fisher and George Clements. The area hit hardest by graduation was the linebacker crew. This year, Tate McDaniel, Michael Brooks and Sophomore Shad Weaver hope to lead the feciousness of the defense. The secondary will be led by all-district free safety Alden Smith. The kicking responsibilities will be

handled by junior Pat Harkleroad, who barely missed a 50 yard attempt in the jamboree.

Although the team lost their scrimmages, they have been working hard and progressing very much and I am certain that they will, seeing how much they have improved against Beech.

**Good luck to  
the 1989 season.**



Players get ready for action during an August afternoon practice.

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to the  
football  
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-from a friend**

### •1989 Cross Country Schedule•

Time	Day	Date	Meet	Location
4:00	Tues	Sept 12	Overton, Hissboro*	SEC
10:00	Sat	Sept 16	Tennessee Classic	Steeplechase
4:00	Tues	Sept 19	Dickson County	Dickson
4:00	Sat	Sept 23	A.F. Bridges	Steeplechase
4:00	Tues	Sept 26	Ryan, Lipscomb*	SEC
10:00	Sat	Sept 30	Lexington Catholic Invitational	Lexington, KY
3:30	Tues	Oct 3	Antioch, Franklin*	SEC
10:00	Sat	Oct 7	Oak Ridge Invit.	Oak Ridge
4:45	Tues	Oct 10	Hillwood	SEC
TBA	Thurs	Oct 19	District Meet	Steeplechase
TBA	Thurs	Oct 26	Regional Meet	Steeplechase
10:00	Sat	Nov 4	State Meet	Steeplechase

\* J.V. will run at same time as Varsity on these dates.

SEC is located on the corner of Highway 100 and Old Hickory Blvd.

### 1989 Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Competitor
Sept. 8x	Pearl/Cohn
* Sept. 15	Hendersonville
Sept. 22	Bowling Green Warren Central
Sept. 29	Hunters Lane
* Oct. 6x	Ryan
* Oct. 13x	Whites Creek
* Oct. 20x	Homecoming Overton
Oct. 27x	Hillsboro
Nov. 3x	Hillwood

All home games 7:30 p.m.

\* Home game x District game

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